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# *THE INTERIM*

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—OCTOBER 2001—HELENA, MONTANA—VOL. XIII NO. 5

## **CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Committee to Meet in November...The next meeting of the Committee will be November 16, 2001. The Department of Public Health and Human Services divisions on the agenda for that meeting include the Quality Assurance Division, the Health Policy and Services Division, and the Child and Family Services Division. In addition to its regular duties, the Committee is especially concerned with the ramifications of the reductions in children's services in mental health and in smaller than requested appropriations for child protective services and will be tracking those programs.

SJR 8 Stakeholder Meeting Planned for October...A stakeholders' meeting on the SJR 8 study on the privatization of foster care and adoptive services is planned for late October. A study plan will be presented to the Committee at the November meeting.

If you are interested in attending the stakeholders' meeting or wish to be placed on the interested persons list, please contact Susan Byorth Fox, Legislative Research Analyst, at the Legislative Services Division at (406) 444-3597 or at [sfox@mt.gov](mailto:sfox@mt.gov).

Information on the Web...Material and minutes from the August 9, 2001, meeting are available on the Committee website.

## **DISTRICT AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION**

Public Hearings Scheduled...The first public hearings on proposed regional plans for new legislative districts for northcentral and central Montana will be held

Tuesday, November 13, in Great Falls and Wednesday, November 14, in Browning. Details will be forthcoming. A mailing with maps, descriptions of districts, and staff analysis will be sent to county clerk and recorders, central committees, and legislators in the affected region approximately two weeks before the public hearing. Written testimony will be accepted for three weeks following the public hearing. The Commission will not make any decisions on plans until after written testimony is received.

Staff is continuing information-gathering visits around the state to meet with county clerk and recorders, central committee representatives, legislators, tribal representatives, and others who are interested in receiving and sharing information about the potential new districts. Staff will prepare numerous options for the Commission's consideration and the proposals will be presented at regional public hearings.

For more information or to be placed on the Commission's interested persons list, please contact Susan Byorth Fox at the Legislative Services Division at (406) 444-3597 or at [sfox@mt.gov](mailto:sfox@mt.gov).

## **TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

November Meeting Planned...Sen. Thomas has tentatively scheduled Nov. 16 for the next meeting of the Transition Advisory Committee. The Committee will consider a work plan and an outline of its required annual report on the status of electric utility restructuring. Other agenda items will be presented in the next issue of **THE INTERIM**.

Report Available...At the August 23, 2001, meeting of the Transition Advisory Committee, several large industrial companies reported on their power supply arrangements. The companies, operating in Montana, were asked to discuss the following:

- the approximate average load for electricity in megawatts;
- estimated short-term load (through July 1, 2002) at risk in megawatts;
- whether the company has entered into contracts for energy supply for all or a portion of its load and the length of the contracts;
- the portion of load not yet under contract and options for meeting that portion of the load;
- energy costs in the recent past relative to current costs;
- the company's ability to compete in its particular market because of energy costs; and

- cutbacks in employment, if any, caused by high energy costs and employment plans for the future.

Committee staff has prepared a summary of responses of the large industrial to the information requested. The report is available on the Committee's web site (<http://www.leg.mt.gov> and follow the links to the Committee's website).

For more information about the Committee or to be put on the Committee mailing list, contact Jeff Martin, Legislative Services Division, at (406) 444-3595 or by e-mail at [jmartin@mt.gov](mailto:jmartin@mt.gov).

## LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Legislative Audit Committee is scheduled to meet October 18, 2001, in Room 137 of the state Capitol. Although the final agenda has not been completed, these items will be covered:

### IS Audit Reports

System for the Enforcement and Recovery of Child Support (SEARCHS),  
Department of Public Health and Human Services (01DP-06)

Montana State Lottery (01DP-07)

### Performance Audit Reports

On-Premises Liquor Licensing Process, Customer Service Center -  
Department of Revenue, Gambling Control Division - Department of Justice  
(01P-06)

State Agency Land Exchanges - Department of Natural Resources and  
Conservation, Montana Department of Transportation, Department of Fish,  
Wildlife and Parks, and Montana University System (01P-05)

Geographic Information System (GIS) Implementation and Development in  
Montana - Federal, State, Local and Private Sector Entities (01P-07)

Purchasing Card Program, Eleven State Agencies and the Two University  
Units (01P-03)

### Status Reports and Updates

Chief Plenty Coups and Pictograph State Parks, Department of Fish, Wildlife  
and Parks

POINTS Status Report, Department of Revenue (LAD report and Revenue  
response)

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

Environmental Quality Council and Subcommittees Meet in September... The EQC met on September 10 and 11 in Colstrip, Montana. The EQC adopted its final interim work plan and all of its Subcommittee interim work plans. It is very important for legislators and members of the public to note that the EQC work plan and the Subcommittee work plans set out very specific time lines for accomplishing interim work and soliciting public comment on work products. Each work plan can be found on the EQC website address noted below. The primary purpose of meeting in the Colstrip area was to tour the Colstrip power generation facility, the Rosebud coal mine, and coal bed methane development areas in Decker, Montana, and Arvada, Wyoming. The Council gained a deeper appreciation and better perspective of the magnitude, complexity, and investment that is involved in the mining of coal and energy generation. The EQC also observed the operation of coal bed methane wells, gathering and transmission systems, and coal bed methane water storage areas and water discharge areas.

To view the Council's or any Subcommittee's minutes from previous meetings, Council and subcommittee work plans, agendas, and press releases, please visit the EQC web site at <http://leg.mt.gov/Services/lepo/index.htm>. If you have any questions or would like additional information or would like to be placed on the EQC interested persons mailing list, contact the EQC office at 444-3742 or [mtheisen@mt.gov](mailto:mtheisen@mt.gov).

Coal Bed Methane/Water Policy Subcommittee . . . The Coal Bed Methane/Water Policy Subcommittee met in Colstrip in September. A variety of interested persons provided comments on the Subcommittee's draft work plan for the interim. The meeting was well-attended and many area residents and other members of the public offered valuable insights to the Subcommittee. A final work plan was adopted by the Subcommittee and later by the full EQC.

Highlights of the Subcommittee's work plan include:

### **Water Policy**

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Status and Progress.

Columbia River and Missouri River Basin Issues Updates.  
 DNRC v. Missouri River Citizens, Inc. and Friends of the Wild Marias.  
 Updates on recent Supreme Court decisions regarding Montana water law.  
 Update Water Quality Handbook.  
 Oversight of agency rules regarding water policy.  
 Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission Update.

#### Coal Bed Methane

- Become informed about water quantity and quality issues associated with coal bed methane production.
- Evaluate management of water produced in association with coal bed methane wells in Montana.
- Monitor preparation of the coal bed methane environmental impact statement (EIS).
- Serve as a clearinghouse for studies related to coal bed methane development in Montana.
- Report to the Legislature.

To review the final work plan, agendas, and other information, go to the Subcommittee website:  
<http://leg.mt.gov/services/lepo/subcommittees/wpsub.htm>. For more information please contact Subcommittee staff:

Water Policy -- Krista Lee Evans at (406) 444-3957 or by e-mail at klee@mt.gov;  
 or

Coal Bed Methane -- Mary Vandenbosch at (406) 444-5367 or by e-mail at mvandenbosch@mt.gov.

The Subcommittee will meet on December 10 in Helena.

Agency Oversight/MEPA . . . The Subcommittee adopted its interim work plan at the September 10 meeting in Colstrip. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet in Helena on December 10. The subcommittee is reviewing the executive agencies' implementation of the Montana Environmental Policy Act following the 1999-2000 EQC study findings and recommendations and the 2001 legislative changes to MEPA. A panel of agency officials will present information to the subcommittee in December. The implementation of the Controlled Allocation of Liability Act and orphan share funding by the Department of Environmental Quality is also being reviewed. An explanation of the process and the policies will be provided to the subcommittee in December. The subcommittee is also tracking the issues and options facing the state regarding the management of sage grouse. The December meeting will provide updates on this issue and will include a further analysis of the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission adoption of a biennial seasonal rule regulating the use of the Big Hole and Beaverhead rivers.

Information about the subcommittee, copies of meeting agendas, minutes, and reports may be found at <http://leg.mt.gov/services/lepo/subcommittees/oversightsub.htm>, or you may contact the subcommittee staff, Larry Mitchell, at 444-1352 or email at lamitchell@mt.gov.

Energy Policy . . . The EQC Energy Policy Subcommittee met on September 10, 2001 in Colstrip and adopted its interim work plan. The Subcommittee heard reports on EQC's historical involvement in energy issues, an analysis of the Transition Advisory Committee and the EQC's statutory responsibilities, and a review of energy legislation enacted during the 2001 legislative session. The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the draft work plan and voted to pursue the following goals:

- develop an understanding of energy law, supply and demand, litigation, transmission, conservation, and price within Montana and the Northwest Region;

- create an easy to understand handbook on Montana energy law;
- prepare a "state of the state" report on the energy situation (supply and demand, transmission, conservation, and price) in Montana for the 2003 Legislature;
- determine if the existing Montana energy policy statement is adequate; and
- develop an understanding of how Montana rural electric cooperatives function.

The Subcommittee has developed a list of tasks to accomplish these goals. The Subcommittee's next meeting will be on December 10, 2001 in Helena.

Staff memoranda, Subcommittee agendas and minutes, and the Final Energy Policy Subcommittee Work plan may be found at the following web site address: <http://leg.mt.gov/services/lepo/subcommittees/energysub.htm>. For more information contact Todd Everts (406) 444-3747 or [teverts@mt.gov](mailto:teverts@mt.gov).

## STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Committee Travels to Rocky Boy Reservation...The State-Tribal Relations Committee traveled to the Rocky Boy Reservation in northcentral Montana on September 20 and 21. For two days the Committee toured the Reservation and visited with officials and members of the Chippewa Cree Tribe. The Rocky Boy Reservation, at about 108,000 acres, is the smallest reservation in Montana. The tribe owns all of the reservation land and roughly 96% of the population is Indian.

The Committee began its tour at the Box Elder School on the western edge of the Reservation. Although not located on the Reservation, the vast majority of the students at the Box Elder School are Indian. Because the student population on the Reservation is increasing faster than the facilities can accommodate them, the Box Elder, Rocky Boy, and Havre school districts have adopted open enrollment policies so that students can move from one school to another.

The Committee then visited the construction site for the new Stone Child College. The college was chartered by the Chippewa Cree Tribe in 1984. Because of enrollment growth and structural problems with one of the college's current buildings, a new college campus is being built. The cultural building and the community library will be completed by February 2002. The academic building/administration building is scheduled for completion by December 2002 with completion of the student union building scheduled for December 2004. The college has secured about 70% of the funding needed for the new campus and is building as the funding becomes available. Following the visit to the construction site, the

Committee met with Steve Galbavy, President of Stone Child College. Stone Child is a two-year college offering an associate of arts and an associate of science degrees in general studies, human services, business, office administration, computer science, and natural resources. The college also offers one-year programs in chemical dependency and office technology. Certificates are awarded for completion of a program. The college also runs a public library, a computer center, and vocational education programs for the entire Rocky Boy community.

The Committee visited with the Tribal Social Services staff and then toured the Tribal Clinic. The Chippewa Cree Tribe is unique in Montana in that it has entered into a compact with the Department of the Interior to eliminate the BIA's daily oversight operations of the Tribe, except within the context of the Bureau's overall trust responsibility. This allows more money to flow to the Tribe and also gives the Tribe greater authority and power to govern as lawmakers rather than as administrators. Only one other tribe in Montana, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai, has entered into a similar arrangement with the Department of the Interior. The effects of the compact are especially evident in the social services and health care areas. Tribal Social Services administers programs that it believes best serves the needs of the Chippewa Cree Tribe. These include a general assistance program for single, unemployed adults. The Chippewa Cree Tribe has joined with the Blackfeet and Crow Tribes to form a consortium that will operate a single welfare program for their tribal members. This program will operate separately from the state welfare program, currently administered through the counties. The consortium agreement was just recently signed and tribal administration will begin in the very near future.

The Tribal Health Board operates a clinic on the Reservation. On staff are doctors, a dentist, an optometrist, a physician's assistant, a pharmacist, nurses, and mental health counselors who are all employed by the Tribe. For specialty areas, the Tribe contracts with health care professionals from Havre. The Tribe also has contracts with hospitals in Havre, Great Falls, and Browning to transport patients who require services not available at the Rocky Boy Clinic. The Clinic also operates an EMT program.

Next on the tour was a visit to the Rocky Boy School. While most school districts in Montana are experiencing declining enrollments, Rocky Boy School enrollment is growing by leaps and bounds. As a result, classrooms are crowded and academic classes are being held in rooms designed for vocational classes. The school is also experiencing problems attracting new teachers. As a result, some courses are no longer being offered because the school cannot find teachers.

The Committee also visited one of the Head Start programs on the Reservation. Because Rocky Boy has such a young population, next year the Tribe will operate five Head Start programs.

The Committee concluded its tour with a visit to the Chippewa Cree Meat Market, a tribally-owned grocery store, and the 4 J's Casino and Restaurant. In addition to selling groceries, the Meat Market also sells meat butchered and packaged by the Tribe. As a result, the Tribe can offer meat to its customers at very reasonable prices, in some instances even less than the large grocery store chains. The Chippewa Cree Tribe operates a casino under a gaming compact with the state of Montana. The Tribe has been operating under an "interim" compact, renewable annually, for a number of years and is anxious to negotiate a longer-term compact. Currently, the Tribe is allowed 100 machines with a maximum payout of \$1,000 per machine. The restaurant recently began serving three meals a day. Because there is no bank on the Reservation, the Tribe offers a check-cashing service for tribal members. The service is located in the restaurant and charges a 1% check-cashing fee.

Committee Meets With Tribal Members and Officials...The Committee held a public hearing on Thursday evening in the Chippewa Cree tribal offices. Members of the community attended to discuss issues of concern with the Committee. The major concerns centered on social services, specifically rumors regarding the abandonment of the commodities program and reductions in the food stamp program. The Committee agreed to look into both of these issues.

The Chippewa Cree Tribe, along with the MT-WY Tribal Stockgrowers' Association, opposes the national beef check-off program that is currently the subject of a lawsuit. Tribes view the check-off as a tax imposed on tribal members. If the lawsuit is unsuccessful and the check-off remains in place, tribes would like to see a portion of the check-off returned to the tribes through a cooperative agreement. The Committee indicated that its staff was already looking into the beef check-off issue as it pertained to tribes.

Tribal members also expressed concern over the proliferation of methamphetamine labs in the state. The Committee suggested that the Tribe work with the Board of Crime Control to receive training in how to spot these labs and how to dispose of the chemicals.

On Friday, September 21, the Committee met with the Chippewa Cree Business Committee to discuss a number of issues of concern to the Tribe. The issues of most concern are as follows:

#### Social Services/Health Care

- continued funding of SCHIP outreach worker;
- greater participation in independent living skills program;
- lack of Indian involvement in policy development and program planning;

- need for more local dialysis units; and
- revisit use of tobacco settlement funds.

#### Welfare Reform

- lack of access to state data to do reservation feasibility study;
- unfair imposition of sanctions;
- lack of Indian representation on Hill County Advisory Council;
- lack of recognition of tribal courts in contracts; and
- more timely disbursement of money.

#### Senior Citizens

- direct funding of tribal aging services; and
- disparities in low-income energy assistance programs funding.

#### Water Resources

- removal of barriers to water compacting process.

Economic Development/Gaming

- Committee support for designation of enterprise zones on Indian reservations; and
- negotiations with state for new gaming compact.

The Committee adopted a motion to investigate all of the issues presented by the Chippewa Cree Tribe and to write a report to the Tribe with the results of the investigation.

To Meet in January...The Committee will hold its next meeting on January 9 and 10 in Helena. The Committee will discuss the results of its investigation into the issues presented by the Chippewa Cree Tribe. If necessary, state officials will be invited to discuss these issues. In addition, Gene Huntington, Administrator of the Gambling Control Division of the Department of Justice, will be invited to discuss the process for negotiating and adopting a tribal gaming compact.

For more information about the Committee or the visit to the Rocky Boy Reservation, please contact Connie Erickson at (406) 444-3064 or at <cerickson@mt.gov>.

## ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Committee Reviews Wide Array of Executive Branch Activities...The Economic Affairs Committee met on September 7, 2001, to hear presentations and discuss activities of Executive Branch agencies assigned to the Committee. The emphasis was on efforts to promote economic development in the state.

Office of Economic Opportunity...The Committee reviewed timelines associated with the newly created Office of Economic Opportunity. Mr. David Gibson, the Chief Economic Development Officer, offered the Committee a taste of the approach he is taking to gather information and develop a strategic plan for retaining and expanding existing businesses as well as recruiting new businesses to the state. Mr. Gibson's first task will be filling the six positions assigned to his office. The early hiring focus will be placed on slots for workforce development and energy policy. Mr. Gibson remarked that he hopes to have his staff in place as soon as possible to ensure that the range of issues facing economic development will be covered.

Mr. Gibson said he has three goals for the Office of Economic Opportunity. The first is to build the necessary groundwork for meaningful economic development efforts that spans administrations. The second is to institutionalize efforts made at the state level to foster economic growth. The third and final goal is to leave a strategy and a program legacy that is durable enough to guide the state for many years. To meet

these goals, Mr. Gibson has developed a three-phase process to gather information on strengths, weaknesses, needs, and opportunities associated with Montana economic condition; draft a strategic plan for public comment; and develop a package of policy changes necessary to implement the plan. He anticipates these efforts will conclude by spring 2002.

Department of Commerce... Director Mark Simonich reviewed the agency's recent reorganization efforts under SB 445. The legislation transferred all of the Department's regulatory functions to other agencies, including the Department of Administration, the Department of Labor and Industry, and the Department of Livestock. What remains at the Department of Commerce falls into three broad missions: Business and Community Technical Assistance, Montana Promotion, and Public Finance. The Department will work in concert with the Office of Economic Opportunity, local governments, economic development corporations, and the private sector to facilitate economic development and growth in Montana. Mr. Simonich said that work continues on coordinating and cataloging all state loan and grant programs designed to address economic development issues and will be available on the state's webpage for use by the public by the end of this year. A revised organizational chart of the Department may be found at: <http://commerce.mt.gov/>.

Mr. Carroll South, Executive Director of the Board of Investments, reviewed the responsibilities of the Board and specifically discussed the In-state Investment Program (17-6-305, MCA). Under this program, the Board is encouraged to invest up to 25 percent of the permanent coal tax trust fund in Montana business interests. Currently, the Board has \$144 million worth of outstanding loans which amounts to approximately 22% of the trust fund.

Mr. South also discussed the infrastructure loan program and the value-added loan program, both of which have a \$50 million cap on aggregate loan amounts. The infrastructure loan program allows the Board to make loans to local governments for the development of infrastructure necessary for attracting and keeping businesses. The local government owns the infrastructure and private businesses pay the local government a use fee to access the infrastructure improvements. The businesses are allowed a credit against income taxes for fees paid. The minimum loan amount is \$250,000, and the maximum loan amount may not exceed the number of jobs created multiplied by \$16,666. Currently, the Board has \$3 million in funded loans and another \$4.6 million committed.

The second loan program reviewed was the value-added loan program. First conceived during the May 2000 Special Session, the value-added loan program allows the Board to participate with commercial lenders in providing loans to businesses engaged in processes that add value to raw products. Mr. South said that the Board carefully crafted a series of rules and requirements to ensure that value was indeed being added to whatever product a business was proposing as the rationale for the loan. The Board has narrowly defined value-added to require that a product needs to

be created or changed in some manner from its original form. Simply handling or transporting a product will not meet the definition established by the Board. Also, in recognition of high-tech business activities, the Board has included intellectual property in the definition of value-added. Mr. South referred to loans provided to bakeries, truss manufacturing companies, lumber mills, brewing companies, and industrial coding companies as typical examples of value-added businesses in the state.

The purpose of the morning session was to set a foundation upon which the Committee could make recommendations for future legislative activities. As the Office of Economic Opportunity begins to draft the state's strategic economic development plan, they will update the Committee on issues of importance, any conclusions that the Director and the staff have reached, and possible legislative proposals, if any, to ensure that the plan moves the state in an appropriate direction.

DOLI Rule Review...Officials from the Department of Labor and Industry discussed two rulemaking issues facing the agency. Mr. Kevin Braun, the Department's Chief Legal Counsel, provided a brief update on the rulemaking process associated with implementing the changes required by Senate Bill No. 242 (the "Donut Bill"). The legislation retroactively eliminated the definition of the "extended jurisdiction area" and presumably, the ability of a municipality to enforce building codes within that area. The legislation also requires a county in which a municipal jurisdictional area exists to hold an election by the end of this calendar year to determine whether the extended jurisdictional area should continue. As a result of the internal inconsistency within the bill, the Department's legal staff issued a legal opinion that concluded the "donut" area continues to exist until an election terminates the extended jurisdictional area. Mr. Braun also informed the Committee that an Attorney General's opinion has been requested asking for a clarification of the extended jurisdictional area. (*Editor's note: An account of the Department's public hearing on the proposed rules was unavailable for coverage in this issue of THE INTERIM.*)

Mr. Jerry Keck, Employment Relations Division, provided a detailed account of the Department's attempt to address a discrepancy in workers' compensation fee schedules for chiropractors, physical therapists, and occupational therapists. According to Mr. Keck, the problem arose during the early 1990s when the Department was proposing rules for non-hospital fees for treatment of injured workers. In 1993, the Department proposed and adopted ten Montana-only combination codes for chiropractors that resulted in lower unit values than unit values provided by Relative Values for Physicians codes. In 1997, the State Fund raised the issue of disparity among the fee schedules of chiropractors, physical therapists, and occupational therapists. Following several years of work, the Department proposed a rule this summer that would have: removed the ten Montana-only codes for chiropractors, increased chiropractors fees, and reduced fees of physical therapists and occupational therapists. The overall effect of the rule would have been revenue neutral on the workers' compensation system. Faced with strong opposition from the physical therapists and occupational therapists, the Department withdrew the rule.

At the suggestion of the Montana Chiropractors Association representative, the Committee requested that the Department invite the affected providers and the insurers to participate in one more attempt to resolve the issue by administrative means. The Committee asked that the process be completed within a 90-day period and that a report be provided to the Committee as soon as practicable. At this time, the

meeting tentatively scheduled for February 15 would be the earliest opportunity for the Committee to be informed of the results of the Department-led efforts.

Next Meeting in November...The next meeting of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee will be November 30, 2001, in Helena.

SJR 22 Subcommittee Begins Work on Health Care and Insurance Study...The SJR 22 Subcommittee on Health Care and Health Insurance met on August 30 to begin gathering information, recommendations, and suggestions from the many interested persons and stakeholders to guide the Subcommittee's efforts over the next 12 months.

The sponsors of SJR 22 intended that the study would be broad-based in scope. The Subcommittee is "directed to study health care and the increasing cost of health insurance", analyze the findings, draw conclusions, and make recommendations to the 58th Legislature as a "head start" in handling a complex public policy issue.

In addition to the broad mandate for a systematic review, the resolution provides a number of core policy areas that the Subcommittee is requested to focus its attention. Specifically, the policy areas are:

- purchasing pools for individual and small group health insurance;
- provider reimbursement rates and cost shifting of health care costs;
- access to affordable prescription drugs;
- strategies to decrease the number of uninsured Montanans;
- factors causing health insurance rates to increase above the rate of inflation; and
- the feasibility of recreating the Health Care Advisory Council;

The Subcommittee, with the assistance of interested persons and stakeholders, identified two broad and related goals to be pursued throughout the course of the study. Those two goals, in no order of priority, are:

The recommendation of policies that provide access to affordable health insurance for as many Montanans as possible.

The recommendation of policies that provide quality, cost-effective health care for Montanans.

### Major Study Objectives

Within the context of the Subcommittee's goals, the focus of the

Subcommittee's work will be to:

- Identify the various issues and concerns associated with health care and health insurance and review the different options available for resolving those problems. This effort will include an assessment of what solutions other states have applied, any opportunities available under federally-administered programs, and how, if applicable, each of the individual proposals affect the overall system.
- Identify what an appropriate health care and health insurance system should be achieving for the state's citizens with intent of developing an overall health care and health insurance policy for the state.
- Develop an inventory of health care and health insurance in order to better understanding of the health care system and health insurance market in Montana.
- Identify the level of health care costs in Montana and what factors contribute to those costs.
- Assess the feasibility of recreating the Health Care Advisory Council, or some other appropriate entity that would be designed to: continue the work of the Subcommittee, review the effectiveness of existing and proposed policies to meet the Subcommittee's stated goals, and advise the Executive Branch and the Legislature of viable options that continue to improve the health care and health insurance system in Montana.

Throughout the course of the study, the Subcommittee will require the assistance of public agencies and others that have the staff and expertise to address health care and health insurance study issues. The resolution specifically lists several public and private entities that should be included in the study effort. Those entities include, but are certainly not limited to, the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, the Department of Public Health and Human Services, local government representatives, health care and health insurance consumers, providers, insurers, public and private sector health benefit plans, and hospitals. Those groups and many others will provide valuable information and it is anticipated that these groups will collectively, cooperatively, and collaboratively, provide data, analyses, and other information relevant to the study.

Some of the questions the Subcommittee will consider are:

- What are the features of other states' health insurance and health care programs? What factors bear special attention for purposes of comparison?



- What are the options for maximizing federal funding, including expanding eligibility requirements under Medicaid and CHIP and providing coverage for parents of CHIP eligible children?
- What are the factors that cause health insurance rates to increase above the rate of inflation?
- How are provider reimbursement rates established?
- What is cost-shifting and what is its effect on health care costs?
- What effect does regulation and mandated benefits have on the cost of health insurance and health care?
- How do the following strategies work to reduce the number of uninsured Montanans, including:
  - identifying what purchasing pools for individual and small group health insurance are, how the pools work, and how the pools should be structured to be effective;
  - identifying whether tax credits for buying health insurance, either alone or in conjunction with other strategies, is an appropriate and effective method of promoting access to affordable health insurance; and
  - investigating whether premium sharing and stop-loss coverage are practical ways of reducing the cost of health insurance and providing better access to affordable health insurance benefits.
- What opportunities exist to provide Montanans with access to affordable prescription drugs?
- How should health care be financed in Montana? At what level should health care and access to affordable health insurance be financed?

Next Subcommittee Meeting October 29...The Subcommittee's next meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2001, in Helena. The primary focus of the meeting will be to identify possible solutions for specific problems and review the activities of other states. The Subcommittee will look at how each of those potential efforts may affect the overall health care and health insurance system.

For more information about the Economic Affairs Committee or the SJR 22 Subcommittee, contact Gordy Higgins at (406) 444-3064, or by e-mail at [gohiggins@mt.gov](mailto:gohiggins@mt.gov).

## REVENUE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Agency Review...From breweries to bridges, from agriculture to appraisals, and from Highway 2 to hazardous waste, the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee (RTIC) traveled considerable ground during its second meeting of the interim on September 13th and 14th in Helena.

The committee heard from the directors and staff of both the Department of Transportation (MDT) and the Department of Revenue (DOR). RTIC members also requested that additional topics be added to the interim work plan and began some general work on the Senate Joint Resolution No. 21 (SJR 21) study of the taxation of agricultural land. In the interest of space, this installment will cover some of the Department of Transportation's discussions with the committee and an item added to the interim work plan concerning transportation of hazardous waste. RTIC's installment in November's edition of *THE INTERIM* will focus on the Department of Revenue's presentations to the committee and more information on the SJR 21 study.

Department of Transportation...House Bill No. 131 (HB 131), enacted by the 2001 Legislature, authorizes certain MDT officials to inspect the fuel supply tanks of diesel-powered vehicles being operated on the state's public highways to determine compliance with Title 15, chapter 70, part 3, MCA. In general, Title 15, chapter 70, part 3 addresses the tax on diesel ("special") fuel. Diesel fuel is taxed at 27 cents per gallon, with the revenue used for highway maintenance and repair. Because they do not contribute to the degradation of public highways, those who operate vehicles off of the public highways may use tax-free diesel fuel that has been injected with a red dye.

HB 131 was introduced to curb the illegal use of dyed diesel fuel in vehicles operating on public highways. HB 131 amends 61-10-141, MCA, to state that certain employees of DOT have "the authority, if probable cause exists, to stop and inspect a supply tank connected to the engine of any diesel-powered motor vehicle operating on the public highways of this state in order to determine compliance with Title 15, chapter 70, part 3." MDT is required to report to RTIC at least once each year on whether this stepped-up enforcement has had any impact on diesel fuel tax revenue.

During the debate on HB 131, discussion centered around the legal phrase "probable cause" and what that would have to entail. MDT has made a determination that to meet the probable cause test, a designated MDT officer must witness someone

putting dyed fuel in their tank and subsequently driving the vehicle on a public road or the department must receive a signed complaint from an individual who witnessed the illegal activity. MDT Director Dave Galt noted that fuel pumps containing dyed fuel must be clearly marked (SB 150, passed during the 2001 session, established a \$100 fine for each violation of this requirement) and told the Committee that by mid-October, officers will be placed at various filling stations around the state to monitor the dispensing of dyed diesel fuel. He added that by the spring of 2002, MDT should be able to report to RTIC information it has gathered about the public's reaction to MDT's approach and impacts on diesel tax revenue.

Senate Bill No. 3 (SB 3), also enacted by the 2001 Legislature, states that the Transportation Commission shall direct MDT to construct a four-lane highway along the present route of U.S. Highway 2, that "the department shall seek additional federal funding that does not require a state funding match for the U.S. highway 2 project", and that "the department may not expend any resources on the U.S. highway 2 project that would jeopardize any future highway projects."

Since its enactment, considerable confusion has ensued over legislative intent and MDT's interpretation of SB 3's requirements. Director Galt asked RTIC to provide the department and the Transportation Commission with some guidance on legislative intent and how MDT should go about implementing the bill. What follows is the guidance document adopted by RTIC in response to Director Galt's request.

#### **Revenue and Transportation Committee Guidance for the Interpretation of SB3**

*(Adopted by the Revenue and Transportation Committee September 14, 2001)*

*Senate Bill 3 amended Section 60-2-110 of Montana Code Annotated relative to how the Transportation Commission sets priorities and selects projects. To ensure consistent interpretation of these amendments within the business practices of the Commission, the following will guide the Montana Transportation Commission and Department staff in implementing these amendments.*

#### *Interpretation of SB 3 Provisions*

1. *SB 3, Section 1 (1): "The Commission shall direct the department to construct a four-lane highway generally along the present route of U.S. highway 2 from the North Dakota border to the Idaho border in order to increase tourism and to bring economic development to Montana. Planning for the U.S. Highway 2 project must be included in any future fiscal plan developed by the department."*

*The committee interpretation is:*

- a. *Projects in the Tentative Construction Program as of June 30, 2001 will continue with development as planned. All projects on U.S. 2*

*that are currently in the tentative construction program will be constructed to a 40-foot width, except for spot safety improvements or simple overlays and pavement treatments on existing roadbeds.*

- b. *Projects that are nominated and approved for addition to any future Tentative Construction Program will include planning for a four-lane facility if federal funds are secured and the NEPA process completed.*
- c. *Expenditures to complete the NEPA requirements for four-lane construction shall be paid with federal funds that do not require state fund match or effect future projects.*

2. *SB 3, Section 1 (2): "The department shall seek additional federal funding that does not require a state funding match for the U.S. Highway 2 project."*

*The committee interpretation is:*

- a. *The Director shall proactively work with Montana's Congressional Delegation towards obtaining Federal funds with a 0% non-Federal match.*
- b. *Funding for four-lane design and construction may be sought from any Federal funding source, but if a funding source other than the Federal-aid highway program is considered, the Director will coordinate with the appropriate State of Montana administrative agency director and all MDT design and construction standards will be met.*
- c. *Other Commission policies relative to seeking additional Federal funds shall continue unchanged by this amendment, including the Commission Policy guiding prioritization of Public Lands Highways Discretionary Grant (PLH) nominations. Out of deference to the transportation needs on Montana's State Highways (Primary, Secondary, and Urban), the PLH Prioritization Policy precludes the Department from nominating projects on Montana's Interstate or National Highway Systems. As U.S. 2 is a National Highway System route, the Commission will not prioritize and the Department will not nominate a PLH funding request for U.S. 2.*
- d. *The Department and the Commission will not seek any Federal funding that directs or reduces Montana's Federal-aid Highway apportionments or obligation authority.*

- e. *If additional Federal funding is obtained for four-lane construction, the Commission will either approve the location(s) as named in the Congressional directive; or, if locations are unspecified by Congress, will consider project proposals based on recommendations of local and Tribal governments and citizens living along U.S. 2. MDT will accommodate any request for information to assist these governments and citizens in developing their recommendations. If additional monies are not adequate to fund an entire four-lane project, monies may be directed to expand future bridge re-construction projects to accommodate four-lane.*
  - f. *If such additional funds are obtained, MDT is not responsible for over-runs of project costs beyond the amount of the earmark. In this case, a project's length may be reduced based on available funds.*
3. *SB 3, Section 1(3): "The Department may not expend any resources on the U.S. highway 2 project that would jeopardize any future highway projects."*

*The committee interpretation is:*

- a. *Projects that are not receiving Federal funds in addition to Montana's Federal-aid Apportionments (including Revenue Aligned Budget Authority) will enter the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program through the normal project prioritization process. This process, known as Performance Programming, considers the transportation needs of the specific project proposal and the overall performance of the system, compared to overall needs of Montana's Highway System.*
- b. *When defining the scope for any future highway construction project, including those on U.S. 2, the number of lanes will be determined under existing department practices unless federal funds are secured in accordance with SB3 to cover the entire four-lane project.*
- c. *Regardless of any other provision contained within this guidance, no section of U.S. 2 will be constructed to less than a 40-foot top (two, twelve foot driving lanes; plus two, eight foot shoulders), except for spot safety improvements, and simple overlays and pavement treatments on existing roadbeds.*

Transportation of Hazardous Waste...During the 2001 Legislature, Rep. Sylvia Bookout-Reinicke introduced HJR 36, a resolution requesting a study of the possible future rail transport of high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel from the Hanford Site in Washington through Montana to a federal repository in Nevada. The

resolution died in the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee, but a majority of the standing committee members voted to send a letter to RTIC suggesting that the interim committee explore the broader subject of the transportation of hazardous waste through the state, including the kind of material that is shipped, how it is transported, what entities send hazardous waste through Montana, who is notified when a shipment occurs, what safeguards are in place to ensure safe transport, and how Montana agencies are prepared to respond in the event of an accident.

RTIC members felt that this subject warranted their attention and asked staff to set aside time on the committee's December agenda during which they would hear from disaster personnel, hazardous waste specialists, the transportation industry, and other interested groups on the specific items listed above. The committee also requested information on the public's right to know if and when hazardous materials are passing through Montana, the Legislature's role in the process, and constitutional implications of restricting transportation of potentially dangerous materials.

As noted above, the November issue of **THE INTERIM** will highlight the Department of Revenue portion of the September meeting. If you have questions about the committee or future agendas, contact Leanne Kurtz, RTIC staff at (406) 444-3593 or via e-mail at [lekurtz@mt.gov](mailto:lekurtz@mt.gov).

## TVMT: A NEW FALL PREVIEW

*Prefatory Note: TVX was an experiment in gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate floor debates during the 2001 Legislative Session. The closed circuit signal was delivered to strategically placed television sets in the Capitol, and the audio portion was also streamed over the Internet to a number of state agencies. The Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law House Bill 144 (Chapter 557, Laws of 2001), which charges the Legislative Services Division with the responsibility to raise and spend up to \$1.3 million in grants, gifts, donations, and in-kind contributions from private and public sources to purchase equipment and fund a contract for production services during the 2003 Session and the subsequent biennium. Growing TVX out of the laboratory and into our living rooms will take a good pitch, some innovative ideas, and, not least, timely cooperation and assistance from legislative leaders and other VIPs in state government. A fundraising campaign is about to commence. Meanwhile...*

Unedited, unfiltered coverage of all three branches of government throughout the year will be the meat and potatoes of TVMT broadcasts. Gavel-to-gavel is the basic commodity. However, because the Legislature hopes to fund the operation--or at least the infrastructure--with private dollars, there is need to distinguish the made-in-Montana version of public affairs programming from other "brands" in the competition for scarce corporate and foundation grants. One way is to be creative with

some of the educational features that would complement coverage of hearings and floor sessions and other governmental activities; in other words, attract prospective donors with some dessert offerings, in hopes of getting them to the table for the main course. This is a bit of a gimmick, but not without substance. Maybe it will work, and maybe, just maybe, in a year or so, Montana citizens will be able to tune into programs like the ones listed below, all of which would be original, homegrown documentaries that could be exported to other states and even other countries:

**The Jazz Session** - A snappy, swinging, syncopated video portrayal of the legislative process that likens it to jazz music--a truly American genre that combines subtle, complex rules and traditions with close-knit rhythmic flourishes and free-wheeling improvisation. This short ditty will forever alter the image of legislatures as sausage factories.

**The Citizen Legislator** - An inside look at the quaintly peculiar character and characteristics of an authentic American institution, a legislature made up of "ordinary" folks, not professional politicians. This 3-part mini-series will capture the views of first-time candidates and freshmen, experienced leaders from both parties, and "termed-out" veterans with vivid memories of the way things were way back when.

**Big Sky/Silk Road** - No crouching tigers or hidden dragons here, just a straightforward treatment of the flowering of a military-to-military exchange program between the Montana National Guard and the Kyrgyz army (under the auspices of NATO's Partnership for Peace) into a broader humanitarian assistance project with mutual cultural and economic development potential. This program will feature stunning scenery and an awesome cast of citizen-soldiers who are also your friends and neighbors.

**The Federalist Tapes** - Federal-state relations are a perennial concern in Montana and throughout the West. This monthly digest will have some of the most illustrious talking heads in the Treasure State, ruminating out loud on the ramifications of the Interstate Commerce Clause, the Endangered Species Act, the 10th Amendment, tribal sovereignty, and other aspects of that marble cake of governance called American federalism.

**Global Positioning** - An analysis of Montana in a regional, transnational setting, to cast light on state participation in the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER), the Montana-Alberta Bilateral Advisory Committee (MABAC), the Legislative Council on River Governance, and other multi-jurisdictional forums on international trade, economic development, and environmental conservation.

**FADE TO BLACK**

## THE BACK PAGE

*Note: The following contains more editorializing than is customary for this publication. The Back Page allows us (Editor's note: with my permission of course) to go out on a limb, and suffer the consequences.*

### In a State of Pretending

Stephen Maly, Legislative Research Analyst

It's called Big Sky Country, and it could be a country, as big as Japan, or the whole Balkan peninsula. We know the outline of its borders by heart, the way the French know the shape of France. Montana is a homeland, a place to come back to, happily and with a sense of relief, after venturing outward into the fraying sprawl of other states or the cacophonous maw of metropolitan areas foreign and domestic. The state of Israel has a Law of Return on the books; here there is an unwritten law that compels Montanans who have drifted purposefully away from the scarcities of the Treasure State to return, enriched in many ways by prolonged exposure to the elements of hustle and bustle that are so abundant in the East and the West, but yearning to slip back into old coats and under the down comforter of the way things generally are in this part of the world, freezing on the outside but never cold of heart.

Let me digress already. I live in Helena. It's far from perfect. As everyone who lives here knows, it's a hundred miles from real stores and too many hundreds of dollars worth of Sky Miles from a genuine city. Helena's material progress is incremental and its cultural efflorescence is sometimes muted by the dampening inertia of its largest working class--we bureaucrats.<sup>1</sup> Still and all, Helena holds great promise, and lends perspective.

Promontories on the periphery of the capital city give rise, at least in my mind, to strangely instructive geographic allusions. From the top of Sugarloaf,<sup>2</sup> in the south central section of the city, one can get a good view to the south and east of Mount Baldy, a 9,400 ft. peak on the outskirts of Townsend. The top of Baldy is usually covered with snow, and at such a distance it appears whiter than white, like a radiant crown. I call the mountain "My Kilimanjaro", after the celebrated peak in East Africa. Up the slope a bit from Sugarloaf is a ridge that most locals know as Meatloaf, but for

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<sup>1</sup>In point of irrelevant fact, employees of the Legislative Branch are, of course, NOT bureaucrats, but rather humble servants of the people's representatives.

<sup>2</sup> And not resembling in the least the famous landform that towers above Rio de Janeiro.

me it's always been the Golan Heights. Many an early autumn morning, and sometimes at dusk, I've walked my golden Labrador up on "the Golan", always pausing to look down at the capitol and then over at the cathedral, pondering the juxtaposition of church and state, now and tomorrow, and realizing over and over again the significance of "commanding heights" in geopolitical history. We now live in another part of town, in the shadow of Mount Helena, and one of the trails we frequent with the dogs is fairly steep and narrow and my name for it is the Khyber Pass. I'm always in a hurry to get up and over this little track, as if there were Pushtun bandits with long rifles (or Russian-made RPGs) ready to execute an ambush.

I realize that such tampering with local place-names and the stretch for some exotic connection to current events borders on the pathetic, but this little confession has a purpose. I really do believe that Montana suffers from a provincial cast of collective mind: we're too insular for our own good, and this mentality exacts a price. The splendor of physical isolation is greatly reduced if it is accompanied by isolationist thinking and protectionist ideologies. I would like to advocate, therefore, for a broader perspective, a global view, and one way of reaching in that direction is to pretend to be something more significant than we really are<sup>3</sup>--not just a state of the federal union, but a country in our own right, as worthy of international recognition and World Bank loans as Nauru, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and a host of other members of the United Nations General Assembly with less than a million people.

This flight of fancy is facilitated by the fact that in the academic jargon of international relations, nations (or "nation states") are known simply as "states".<sup>4</sup> It's not unusual to see clusters of subnational states and provinces and even cities present themselves for comparison with nation-states. For example, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) is a statutory, public/private partnership composed of legislators, governments, and businesses in the Northwest states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, and the Western Canadian provinces of British Columbia, and Alberta, plus the Yukon Territory. PNWER promotes greater cooperation among these entities to enhance the region's global competitiveness while striving to maintain or improve its environment. Now, here goes:

If it were a nation, PNWER would rank 11th among the world's leading industrial economies, with a combined population of more than 18 million and an annual gross regional product of over \$350 billion.

In addition, it has become fashionable in the marketing and promotion of real-life states

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<sup>3</sup>For some of us, this is surprisingly easy.

<sup>4</sup>and, interestingly, in the theoretical literature, as "actors"

and provinces to speak of "world class amenities", "two-nation vacations", and "transcontinental trade corridors". Hey, we're there--we've got all those things and more.

If Montana were a country, what would we call it? Montanastan? Upper Missouri? Perhaps, in keeping with the shotgun marriage approach in places like Bosnia-Herzegovina, we'd name it Bobcat-Grizzly.

If Montana were a country, how would we conduct ourselves in international affairs? What sort of alliances would we enter into, and with whom? What image would we want the world to have of Montana? An article in the September/October issue of *Foreign Affairs* by Dutch researcher Peter Van Ham analyzes the trend from straightforward advertising to "branding", which gives products and services--and, he asserts, countries too--"an emotional dimension with which people can identify." According to Van Ham, places like Ireland and Singapore have become "brand states", whose geographic and political settings seem trivial compared to their "emotional resonance among an increasingly global audience of consumers."

A couple of weeks ago I enjoyed the coincidence of reading the aforementioned article and hearing both David Gibson, the newly hired CEO of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, and Mark Simonich, Director of the Commerce Department, describe their respective efforts to map out a strategy for Montana's economic development. Mr. Gibson<sup>5</sup> made passing reference to a consultant's finding that among business elites outside the state Montana does not suffer a negative image; rather, it has no image at all. Executives think of our state as a place to recreate, not create jobs. This situation, in Gibson's view, has to change. Mr. Simonich, in a subsequent presentation, handed out some new promotional materials, including a metal lapel pin in the shape of a brand--with an "M" inside a circle. Peter Van Ham writes: "These days, individuals, firms, cities, regions, countries, and continents all market themselves professionally, often through aggressive sales techniques. Indeed, having a bad reputation or none at all is a serious handicap for a state seeking to remain competitive in the international arena. The unbranded state has a difficult time attracting economic and political attention." I think our guys are onto something!<sup>6</sup>

For what it's worth, If Montana were a country it would rank in the top 10 nuclear weapons states.

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<sup>5</sup>who, by the way, has obeyed the "law of return", having grown up in the Flathead and emigrated back to Montana from the deep South

<sup>6</sup>And that sassy French guy Claude who tried to keep the brand name "Montana" all to himself, for a perfume!!! can go jump in the English Channel.

If Montana were a country, it would be regarded as rich, but not powerful, notwithstanding the nukes. Our per capita purchasing power would be on par with folks in Austria, Australia, Iceland and Kuwait. In terms of population, we'd be a pygmy state, in the ranks of Fiji, Cyprus, and Qatar. I can't tell you how we'd stack up in terms of foreign direct investment--job creating capital coming in from the outside world--but in the real world, Montana is very near dead last in comparison with all the other states in the USA.

Being a country, or at least acting like one, would probably cause Montana's political leaders to place greater emphasis on the thoughtful husbanding of strategic resources--like fresh water (in a headwaters state) and platinum and palladium (since we've got the only known deposit of consequence in the Western world). The government would likely pay more mind to developing certain advanced technologies, such as fuel cells and biological pest controls, and to nurturing the state's human and social capital, through larger investments in technical schooling, distance learning, and community art centers. Maybe we'd design, build, and send up our own communications satellite, Big Sky One, and sell transponder space in the global market. Maybe we'd be forced to get creative in our attempts to synergize the services sector of the economy, like mixing tourism and gambling on the Maverick Train, a passenger rail novelty connecting a tribal gaming complex on Flathead Lake to a non-Indian, mining theme casino district perched on the lip of Butte's Berkeley Pit, with pretend highwaymen holding up the train near Deerlodge and collecting tribute for statewide charities.

As a country, Montana would have to deal seriously with its balance of payments. Absent crop support programs and other manifestations of federal largesse, there might be less attention devoted to commodity exports and more to sustainable agriculture. Instead of being on the receiving end of a stream of transfer payments from Uncle Sam,<sup>7</sup> Montana would have to compete with a host of other, far more populous and "needy" countries for highly conditioned handouts from the International Monetary Fund. Yikes!

If Montana were a country, it would be graced with one of the most remarkable constitutions on the planet. We'd be a model state. We'd be like Switzerland. We've already got a lot in common with the Swiss: the initiative and referendum, a right to privacy, a deeply felt devotion to individual freedom, a statutory construct designed to attract clean financial capital from refugees, aristocrats, and expatriates. I'm sure I've seen and heard Glacier Park described as the Switzerland of the Rockies. Just think,

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<sup>7</sup>The feds spend \$3,109 more on each and every Montanan than they collect from the state's taxpayers. Only New Mexicans fare better. Montana ranks #1 in the country in the area of non-defense discretionary federal spending. If we were a country, life could get tough.

Montana could be like a great big Swiss Family Robinson, full of modest people with lots of practical know-how in the crafting of clever buildings and irrigation systems and garden plots that are uniquely suitable for our climate and topography.

Of course, Banff and Jasper Parks fit the Swiss Alps brand-image too. Now here's a twist: If Alberta were a state, more Montanans would notice it. More of us would go there. In global economic terms, we'd know what we were up against, or, more positively, we'd realize the scale of opportunity afforded us by virtue of our proximity to one of the most prosperous areas in North America. Alberta is an economic powerhouse: if IT were a country, it would far outstrip Montana in everything that counts, save nuclear weapons. For reasons that are both mysterious and mundane, the 49th parallel remains a formidable barrier to clear thinking about the scope and breadth of Montana's trade and investment possibilities. Albertans are much less provincial: they are gung-ho for freer trade, they have well established relationships with countries in Asia, Europe, and Latin America, and they regard Montana as the gateway to their most important market by far, the United States.

This may all seem silly, Montana will never be a country<sup>8</sup>. Texas and California are the only western states to have experienced life as independent republics, and neither lasted long as such. Moreover, the future of those colossal and complex communities is bound up in a transnational regional relationship extending across the Rio Grande and deep into the new political economy of Old Mexico. The value in considering the "what if we were on our own in the world?" is in thinking a bit differently, and more expansively, about the economic and cultural potential that exists in our great big small town called Montana, potential that is shackled from time to time by inwardness and a lack of collective self-confidence. To bend a shopworn phrase, we're not at our best in last place. There's got to be space for big ideas in Big Sky Country.

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<sup>8</sup>A more serious and straightforward treatment of Montana's place in the world, entitled *Global Positioning*, appeared in the inaugural issue (Summer, 1999) of **Changing Landscape**, the journal of the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West in Missoula.



## INTERIM CALENDAR

UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED,  
ALL ROOM DESIGNATIONS ARE IN THE CAPITOL BLDG.

### OCTOBER

October 3, Education and Local Government Committee, Room 137

October 4, Legislative Finance Committee Subcommittees

October 5, Legislative Finance Committee, Room 102, 8:30 a.m.

October 12, Law and Justice Interim Committee, Room 102

October 18, Legislative Audit Committee, Room 137

October 28, State Administration and Veterans' Affairs, HJR 8 Subcommittee, Room 102

October 29, SJR 22 Health Care and Health Care Subcommittee, Room 137

### NOVEMBER

November 9, Montana Dental Access Summit II

November 16, Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Committee

November 16 (tentative), Transition Advisory Committee, Room 317

November 30, Economic Affairs Committee